

Appn. Number 10/622,289 (McPheeters et al.) Art Unit 1615 Amendment

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TITLE

One time use disposable styptic product.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

"Not Applicable"

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

"Not Applicable"

THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT

"Not Applicable"

INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC

"Not Applicable"

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The presented invention pertains to the clotting of (to cease bleeding), absorption and removal of blood presented by skin abrasions. Other aspects of the invention are the risk reduction of blood borne diseases pertaining to cross contamination, stemming from blood-to-blood contact and economical improvement by reducing the amount of product wasted.

2. Description of Related Art

The one time use disposable styptic product we propose remedies several problems never before addressed by previous inventions, as in patents 1712667 and 2157743 where by the method of application is comprised of a reusable applicator, furthering the risks of potential transfer of blood borne disease by allowing for possible blood-to-blood contact between multiple users. In patents

3327706 and 3506009 the issue of a reusable applicator is remedied by presenting an application method that allows for disposable applicators but has an obvious drawback in that the applicators are packaged in a "matchbook" design. The shortcomings of this design are that by not individually wrapping the product it remains exposed to environmental contaminants and therefore cannot be trusted to hold a level of sanitation proposed in our invention. Although the previously mentioned invention are similar in style to what we propose they, along with patent 3948265 are directed towards an intent to administer a substance such as styptic, whereby in contrast our inventive applicator has among others an intent to absorb and remove blood through the use of an alum-based styptic product.

Where in the above mentioned patent 3948265 purports to deliver a measured amount of "diagnostically active" substances via a homogeneous layer that dissolves on contact with the various "moist tissues" of the body or wound area, this product is designed to accomplish two tasks. First by adhering, via a drying process, an amount of alum-based styptic product approximately 900mg in size to the end(s) of an elongated stem like applicator approximately three to four inches in length an individual use absorbent styptic applicator is created. This applicator being porous in nature can absorb small amounts of blood resulting from a skin abrasion caused by razor cuts, scratches, nicks or other like abrasions. Another advantage to the use of styptic for this purpose is that while absorbing blood from said abrasion it will also stop the flow of blood through clotting. Secondly the porous qualities of our inventive applicator allow for the added benefit of the containment of blood for the purpose of removal and proper disposal. By absorbing blood into the styptic portion of the applicator it becomes contained significantly and lowers the risk of the exposed blood coming into contact with any other person.

In an age where so many diseases are known to be transferred directly from blood-to-blood contact it is of great importance that this product is of such a size that it is cost effective to use and immediately be properly disposed of eliminating the risk of possible re-use by any other person. The traditional "Styptic Pencil", now available in a variety of stores around the world, can be rinsed and made to appear uncontaminated when really it is not.

Commercial industries such as nail salons, barbershops and other like industries have restrictions on the use of styptic products because of its inability to be sanitized between uses. Take into point a scenario where it may be allowable to have and use a traditional "Styptic Pencil" in a nail salon when a customer has been "nicked" in some way, it is not cost effective to dispose of a full pencil after an individual use. As an alternative to this costly option, our inventive applicator could be used, putting the customer at ease while absorbing and removing the present blood, stopping the flow of blood and then be properly disposed of in any required bio-hazardous material receptacle at a significantly lower cost. Another scenario is in the home use of styptic where the possibility of cross contamination tends to be less of a concern but more of a problem; this product can considerably

reduce the risks presented by cross contamination by a family member. These scenarios along with others involving "nuisance" bleeding, such as a person with severe acne that causes bleeding, to a worker whom obtains an abrasion and needs the use of a first aid kit which this product could be provided in, to the previously stated commercial uses all reflect the superiority of this product over those already in existence because where others intend to administer a medication, this product is intended for the safe absorption of presented blood, removal of said blood and proper disposal after a single use.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF INVENTION

This product is a disposable styptic applicator that absorbs and removes surface blood from abrasions while stopping surface blood flow through contact with the adhered "bud" of alum-based styptic solution at one or both ends of an elongated "stem-like" carrier. This product allows the user a cost effective method of stopping bleeding while also reducing blood to blood cross contamination risks in users. Previous styptic pencils, powders and / or gels do nothing to eliminate multiple users of the product, which elevates risk of blood borne diseases through blood-to-blood contact. This product allows only enough styptic solution (~900 mg) for one use thereby requiring disposal after one use. Hazardous Materials handling is suggested/required by law where blood is present in a commercial setting in most states.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Drawing #1 illustrates one representation of the elongated stem applicator described in the invention with styptic product adhered to one end of said applicator. Drawing #2 illustrates one representation of the elongated stem applicator described in the invention with styptic product adhered to both ends of said applicator. It should be noted that both drawings are only depictions of the products and not to scale. Dimensions and shape of actual product may vary.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The single use applicator as illustrated in the included documentation is shaped as an elongated stem. Drawing 1 represents the applicator with approximately 900mg of styptic product adhered at one end. Drawing #2 represents the applicator with approximately 900mg of styptic product adhered at both ends. Both drawings are representations and not intended to limit the scope of the invention

The elongated stem described in the invention shall be comprised of a liquid absorbing and/or non-liquid absorbing material such as wood, paper, glass, plastic or other like substance either natural and/or synthetic and be capable of holding approximately 900mg

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of styptic product on one or both ends. Dimensions of elongated stem vary due to field of application.

The elongated stem as described in the invention can be straight or bent to any shape to facilitate different uses.

Approximately 900mg of styptic product are adhered to the end or ends of said elongated stem for its intended purpose of absorbing blood while stopping bleeding from skin abrasions. If needed the styptic product may be combined with adhesives, preservatives or other like substances to improve the life of the product.

Application of the styptic product to the elongated stem by a methods such as, the controlled dipping of an elongated stem or the pouring of liquefied styptic into a cast mold around the end or ends of an elongated stem, or any other suitable technique which allows for the adhesion of styptic to an elongated stem.

Packaging of the individual applicator after the styptic has been adhered to an elongated stem, shall be wrapped in paper, plastic, cellophane or other like disposable wrappings, during manufacturing, that will allow for protection from gases, liquids, sunlight or any other like environmental contaminates. After individual packaging, applicators can be enclosed in any other appropriate container with a quantity set by the manufacturer.

The technique of use for this invention is very basic. A single applicator can be removed from an individual wrapping whereby a person can take the styptic adhered end and apply it directly to blood that is present from a skin abrasion. Upon contact with the blood, the styptic, due to its porous nature will act as sponge, and absorb the blood. The styptic will also cause any active bleeding to clot thus stopping the flow of blood and greatly reducing a potential blood borne disease threat. Once the present blood has been absorbed and bleeding has stopped a person can properly dispose of contaminated product.

The advantages embodied by the invention are as follows.

The inventive applicator being intended for one time use helps to greatly reduce the risks of cross contamination through blood to blood contact, in effect reducing the potential spread of blood borne diseases. Due to this reduction in risk it allows for commercial use without a significant loss in product.

The inventive applicators economical advantage is that by reducing the amount of wasted product one reduces the amount invested in the product. Rather than purchasing a traditional "styptic pencil" and only using a small portion before having to throw it away due to contamination or age, this applicator will allow for an insignificant amount to be disposed of when contaminated, and due to the product being individually wrapped and absent of environmental contaminates the life of the product is greatly increased also making for an economical improvement.

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The use of styptic on this applicator also makes for an advantage of the invention. Styptic is well known for its ability to stop bleeding but the intent here is based on its porous quality. Styptic being porous allows for absorption of blood from skin abrasions. By absorbing the present blood it is in effect contained and easily disposed of cutting down the time and risks associated with commercial use.

The inventive applicator also has advantages in its size, packaging and ease of use. Because the applicator is comparable in size to the common cotton swab it is convenient to carry around in a pocket, purse, shaving kit or other like spaces. The individual packaging allows the applicator protection from environmental contaminants that might otherwise effect the product. The packaging also affords the user with a peace of mind by knowing he or she is the only person to use that individual applicator. The ease of use comes from the simplistic design; anyone with the knowledge of how to use a traditional "styptic pencil" will feel comfortable using this product.